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DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

SEPTEMBER 1987

NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR

MONTHLY REPORT #8 [REDACTED]

This memorandum was prepared by the [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Office of African and Latin American Analysis.  
It was coordinated with the Directorate of Operations. It  
contains information available as of 5 October 1987. Questions  
and comments are welcome and should be addressed to Chief, Middle  
America-Caribbean Division, ALA, [REDACTED]

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NICARAGUA AND EL SALVADOR MONTHLY REPORT #8

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NICARAGUA

Developments During September

The Insurgent Effort

Although the signing of the Central American peace plan had little direct impact on our key indicators, we expect some significant shifts in the coming months. In September, top rebel political leaders concentrated on countering the regime's portrayal of them as obstacles to peace. In addition to releasing some 80 prisoners of war, the rebels followed up on earlier statements that they were willing to negotiate with Managua by forming a negotiating commission composed of three prominent exiles and two regional commanders. Insurgent leaders, however, rejected a unilateral cease-fire announced by the Sandinistas, labeling the offer a ruse. [ ]

Most rebel field commanders remain deeply opposed to the regime and are likely to continue fighting. The conditions attached to the current Sandinista amnesty law--which, [ ] will require anyone accepting amnesty to carry documentation identifying himself as a counter-revolutionary--probably will discourage many from surrendering. The insurgents, however, will find it difficult to continue operations if Cardinal Obando, head of the recently formed National Reconciliation Commission, calls on them to accept a well-defined cease-fire. Even without the Cardinal's urging, some Indian and Southern Front commanders may be willing to break with the insurgent Directorate and negotiate with the regime. Continued US funding remains the most critical variable for rebel morale. [ ]

Over the last month, the level of fighting remained steady. Insurgents hit one Sandinista military garrison but generally continued their focus on small-unit operations, including road ambushes and attacks on economic targets. The estimated 12,000 rebels in country--well-equipped as a result of the ongoing aerial resupply effort and able to draw on materiel cached over the past several months--probably will be able to stay on the attack in the weeks ahead. Although the regime's military durability and ongoing psychological warfare campaign have probably exacerbated conflicts among insurgent commanders and hurt morale, the fighting is likely to remain at the same level through most of October, barring a general cease-fire. In the absence of a clear international consensus that Managua is violating the accord, Tegucigalpa probably will begin curtailing the use of rebel camps in Honduras for military training and resupply by the end of October. [ ]

### The Sandinista Regime

Managua's aggressive efforts during September to comply with the Central American peace plan were designed, in our opinion, to disarm the regime's domestic political opponents and international critics. In addition, the regime sought to damage insurgent morale and sow discord between rebel leaders and their field commanders. [ ]

The Sandinistas announced that both the independent newspaper, La Prensa, and the Catholic Church's radio station would be free to reopen without censorship. Earlier, Managua lifted a law allowing the confiscation of property of citizens living abroad, pardoned some 20 foreign prisoners, and announced a dialogue with the internal opposition--and insurgents who accept the government's amnesty offer--beginning in early October. [ ]

Under the government's partial, unilateral cease-fire, Managua would postpone offensive military operations in parts of Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, and Zelaya Departments. Government troops in these locations would be concentrated at designated locations and defend themselves only if attacked. The withdrawal of government troops from these areas would not give the rebels control over major segments of the population. [ ]

While refusing to negotiate directly with top insurgent leaders, the Sandinistas are calling for talks between guerrilla field commanders inside Nicaragua and local peace committees--composed of prominent citizens, clergy, and relatives of insurgents--under the National Reconciliation Commission. Obando [ ] realizes that he is being used by the Sandinistas and that their plan is aimed at dividing the insurgents. Nonetheless, he has so far appeared willing to help implement the cease-fire. His participation could give the Sandinista proposal greater credibility in coming weeks because the insurgents view him as a moral leader. [ ]

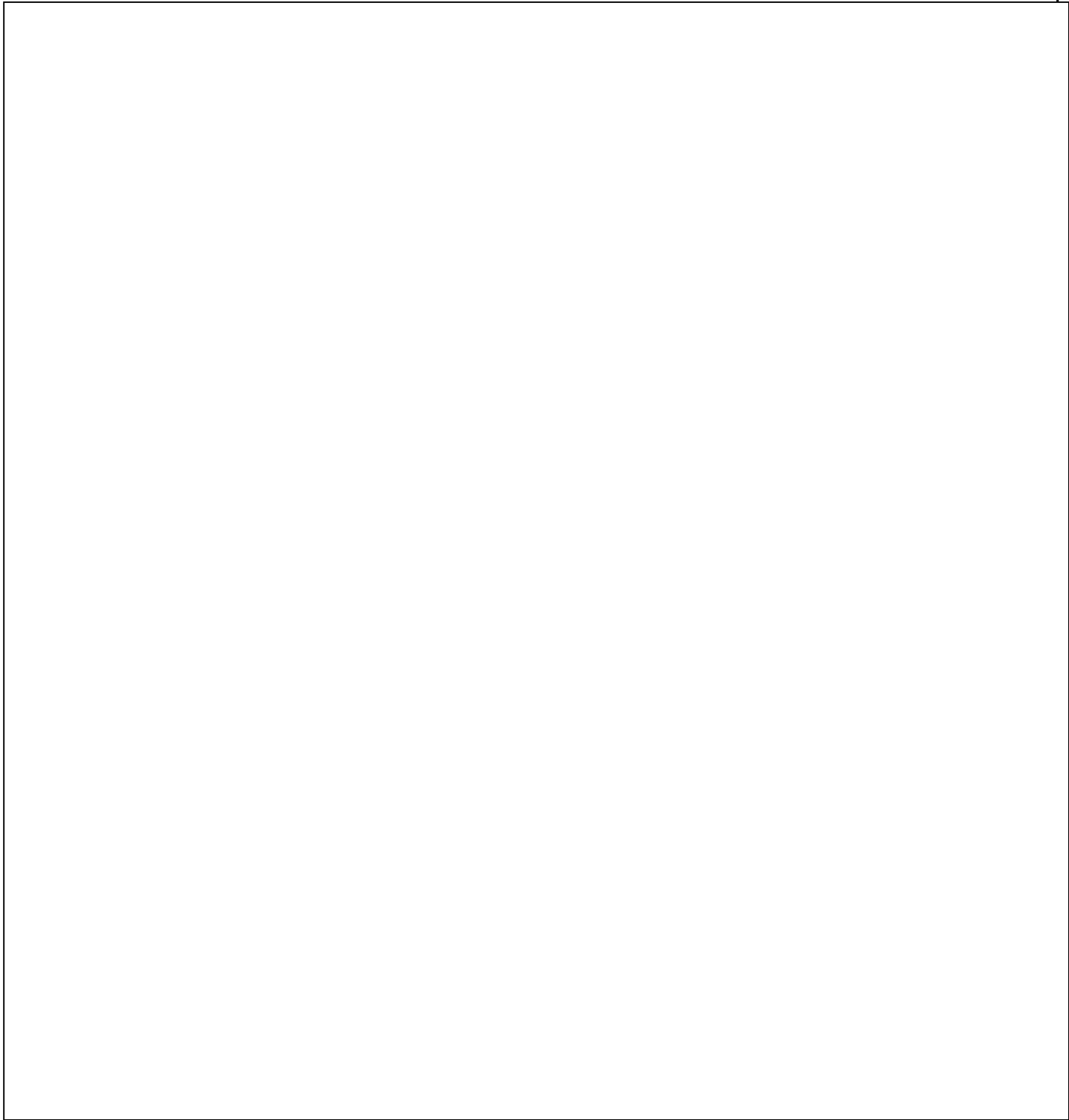
The internal opposition has been slow to exploit opportunities presented by the reforms. Despite a demonstration by the Social Christian Party in late September--some 3,000 participants chanted anti-Sandinista slogans-- [ ] dissident leaders are reluctant to confront the regime. Growing numbers reportedly welcome an accommodation; [ ] La Prensa's owners have agreed to exercise restraint in their criticism of the regime in return for permission to publish. The opposition also remains weakened by personal and ideological infighting. [ ]

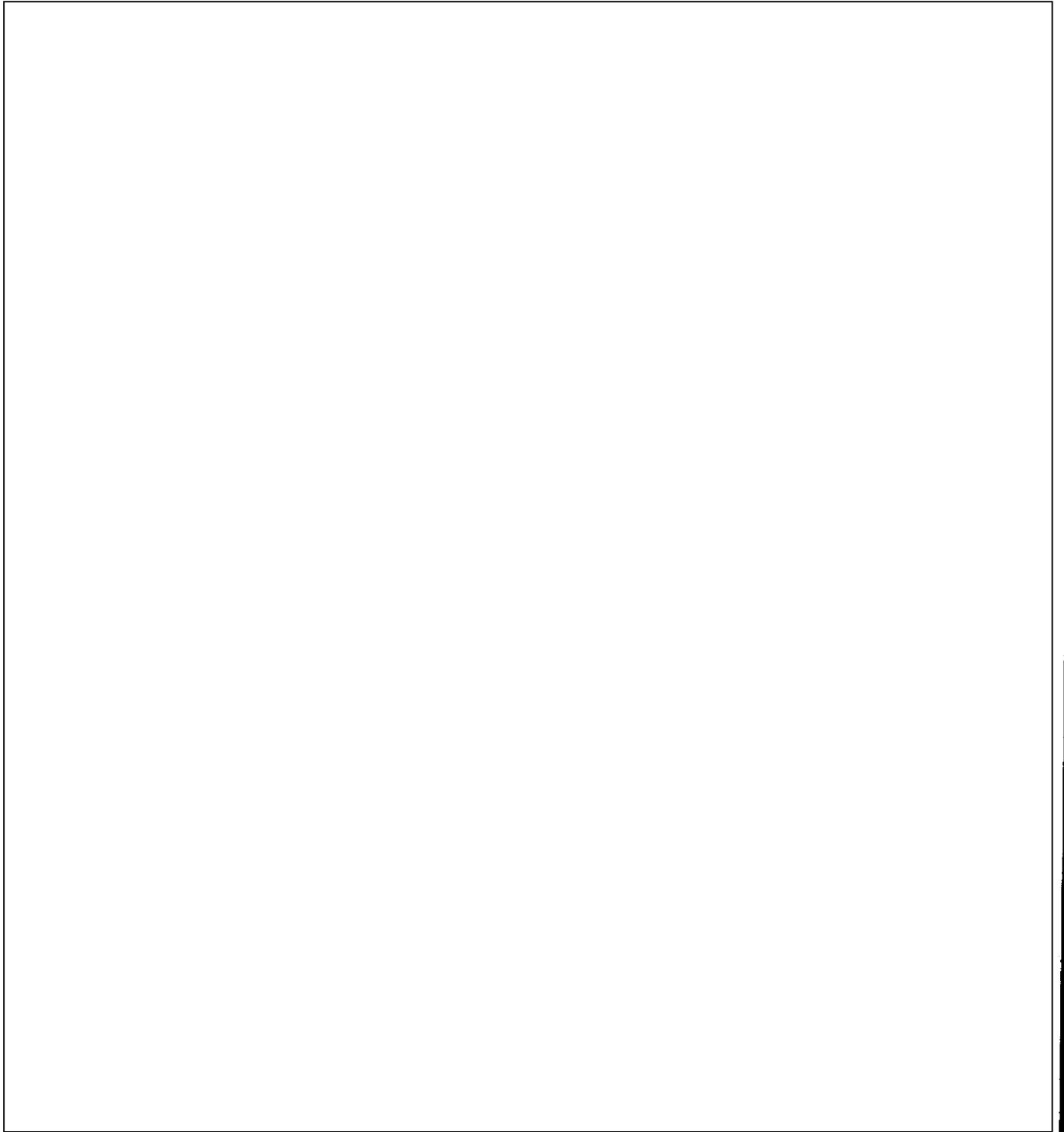
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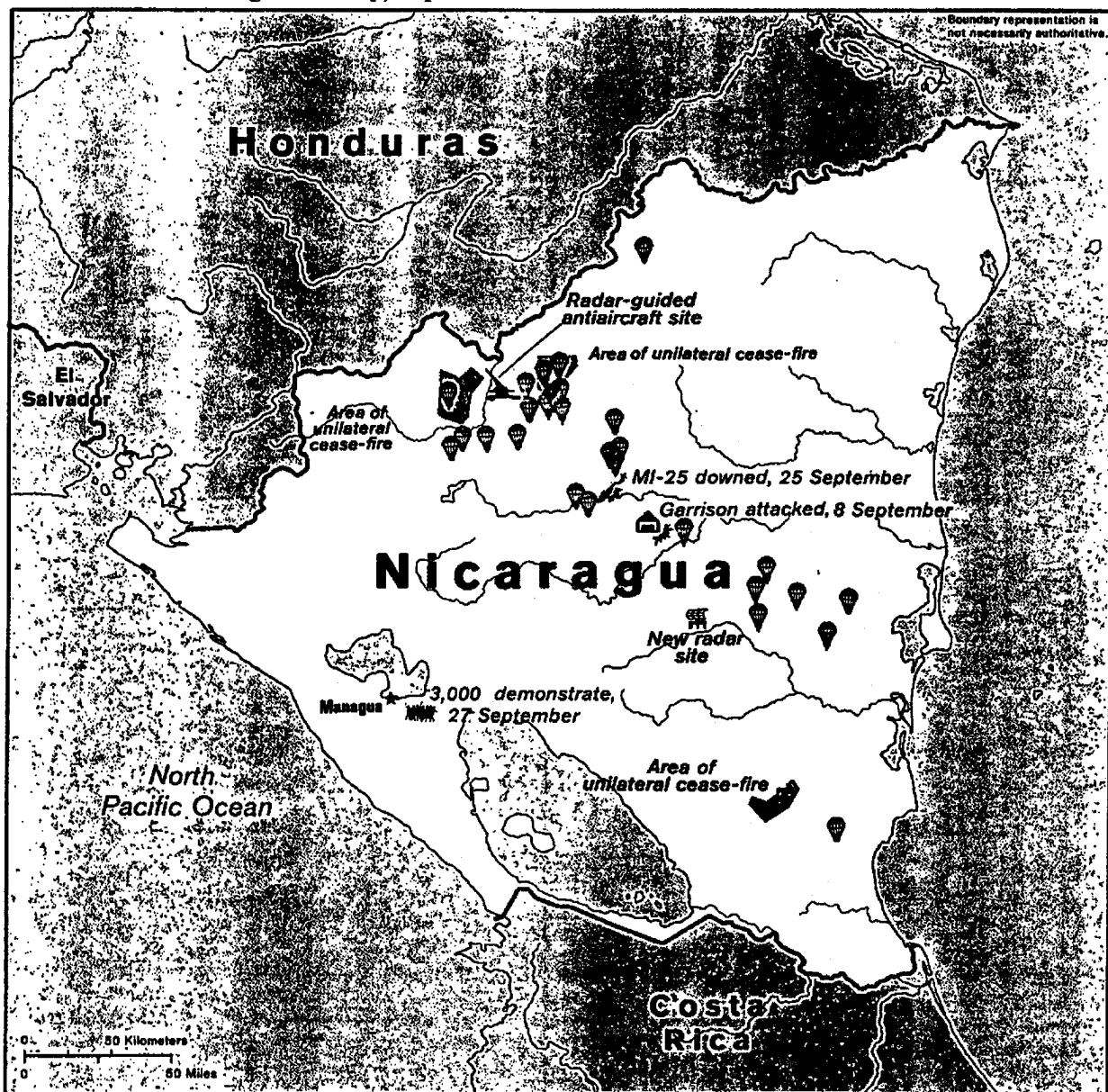
Meanwhile, the Sandinista armed forces have intensified efforts to interfere with aerial resupply to the rebels.

[REDACTED] the Sandinistas have organized special troops armed with SA-7 and SA-14 missiles, small antiaircraft guns, and highpowered searchlights to ambush insurgent resupply flights. Heavy rains and helicopter maintenance problems, however, have disrupted Sandinista logistics in some areas. [REDACTED]





**Government and Insurgent Activity, September 1987**

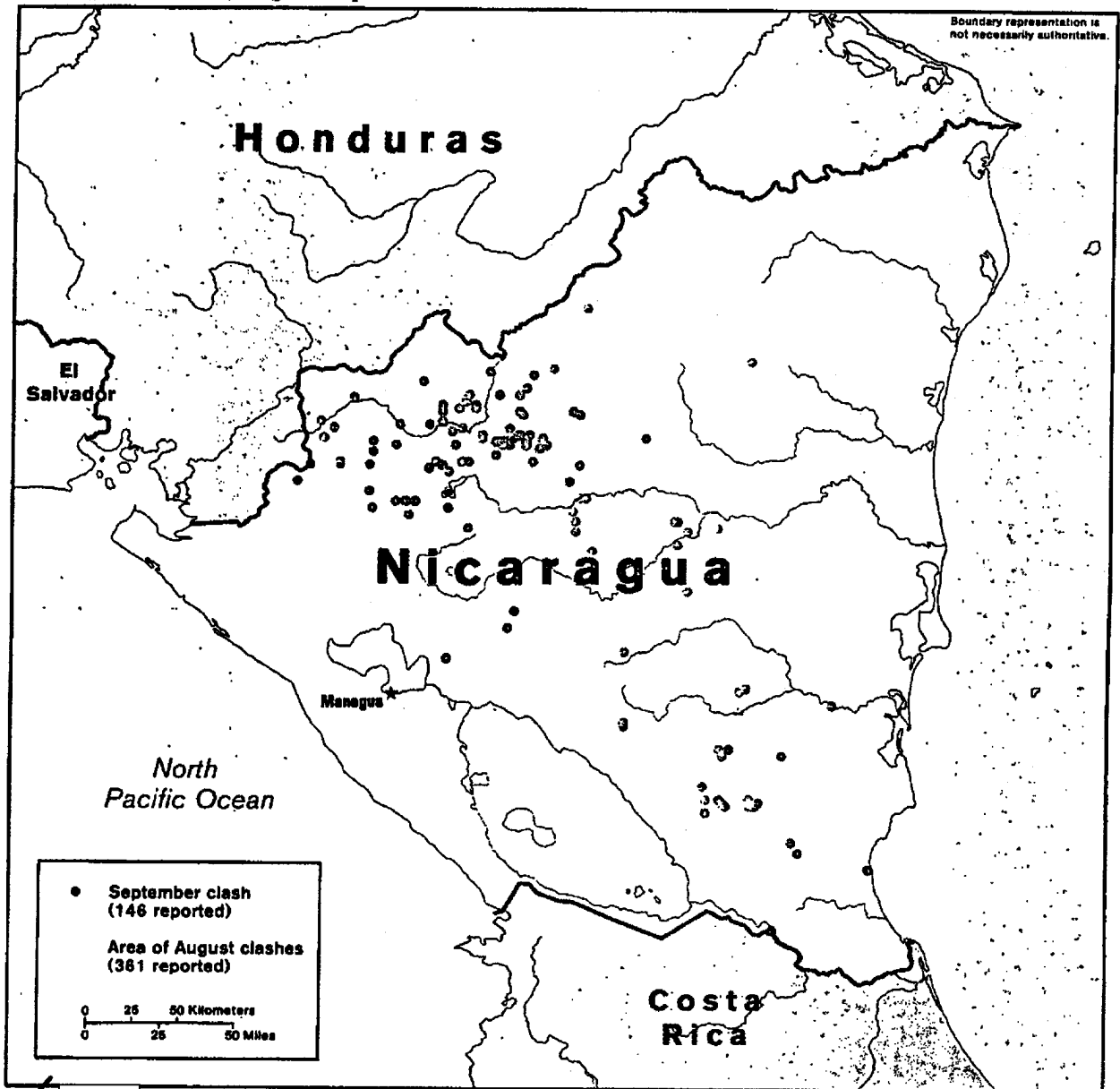


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**Nicaraguan Clashes, August-September 1987**



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## TRENDS IN NICARAGUAN FIGHTING OCTOBER 1986 -- SEPTEMBER 1987



Legend

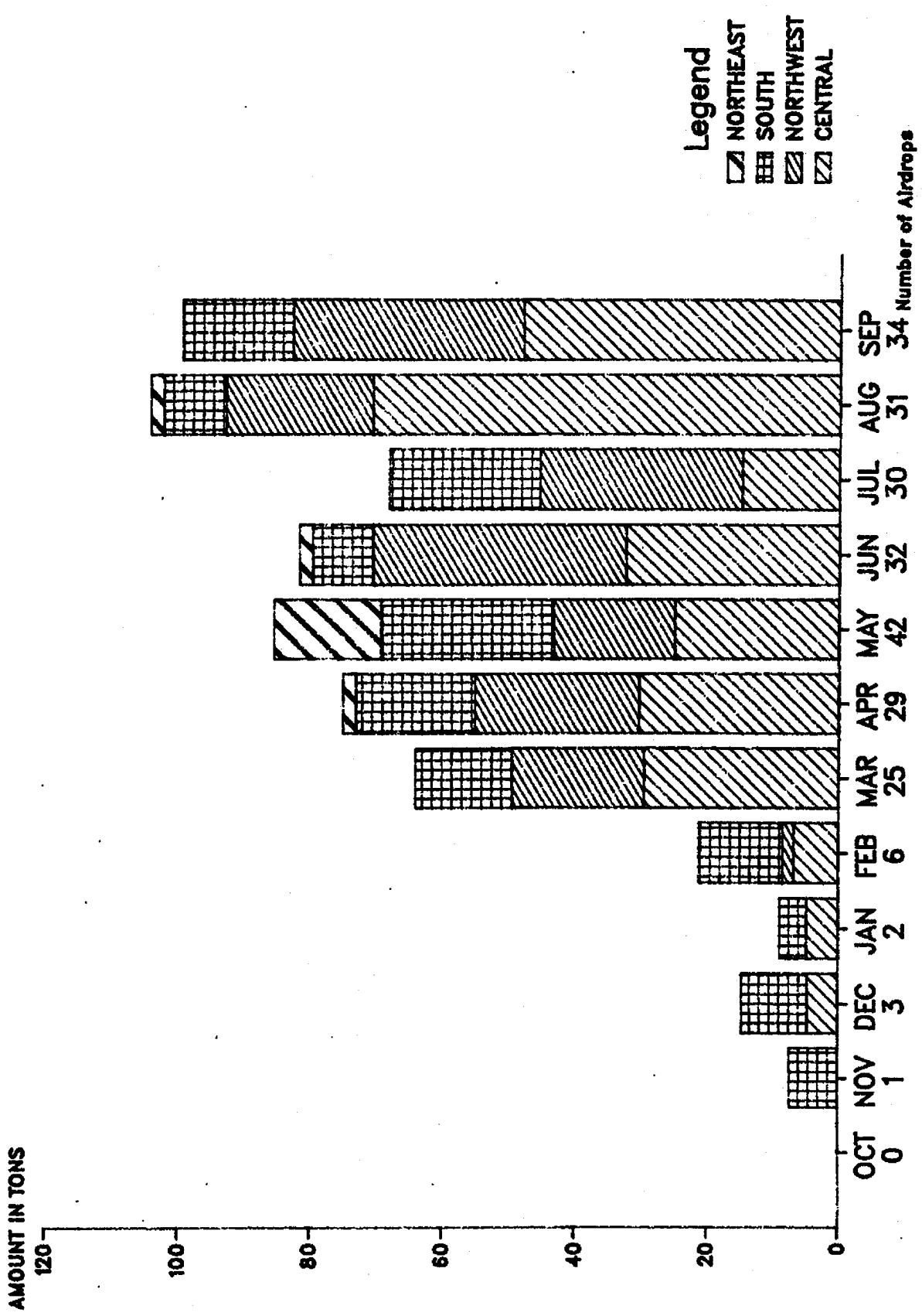
▲ CLASHES

MOVING AVERAGE

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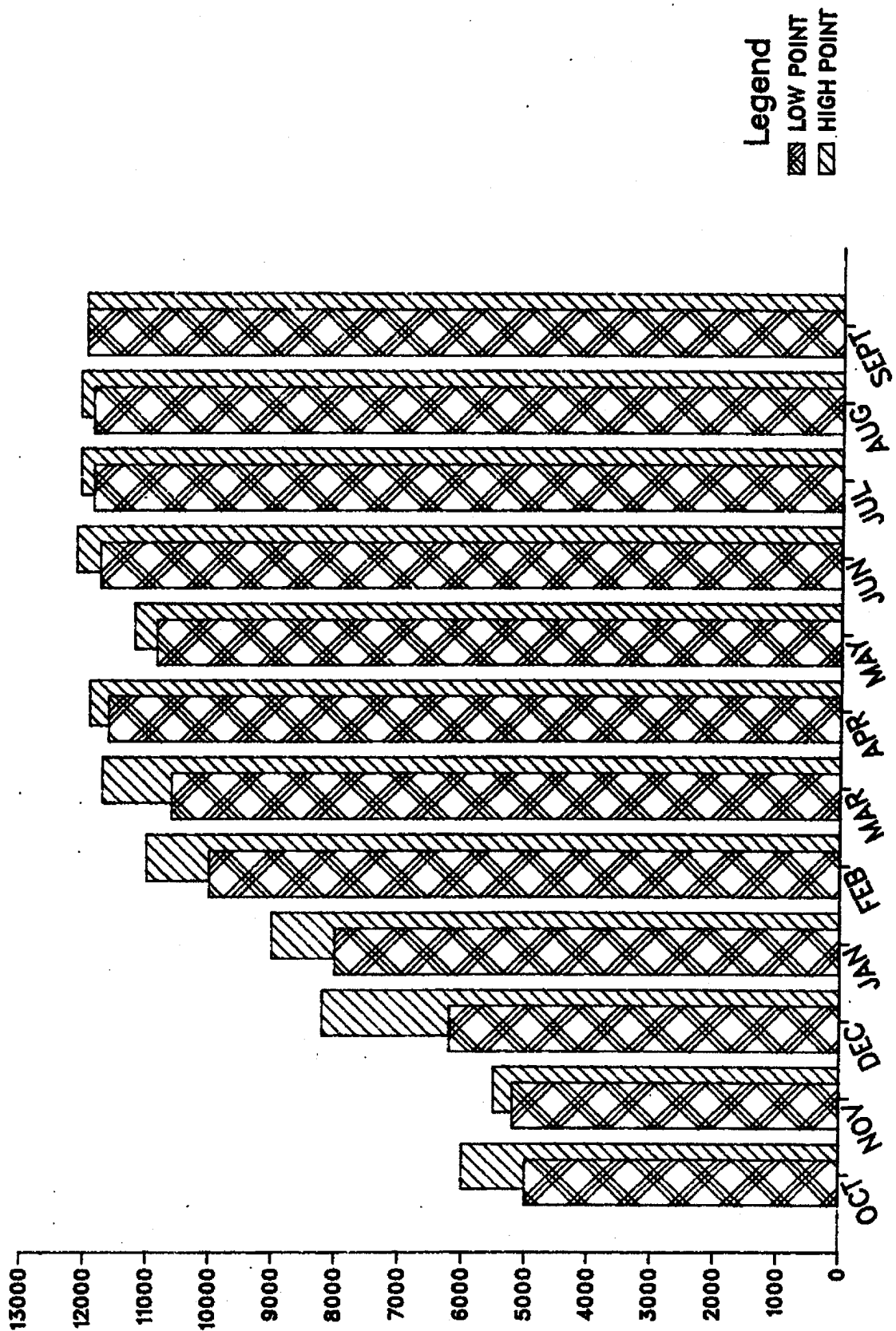
# INSURGENT AIR RESUPPLY OCTOBER 1986 - SEPTEMBER 1987



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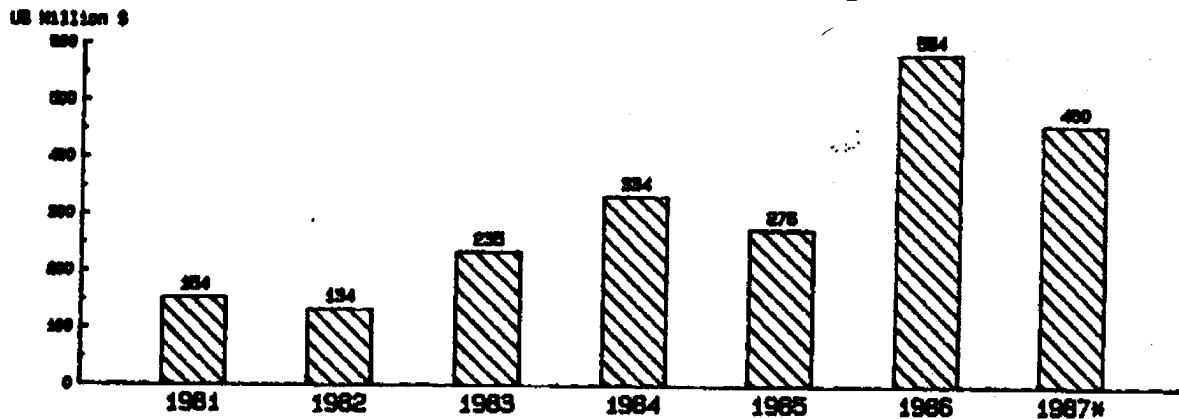
# ERN/NORTH TROOPS INSIDE NICARAGUA

NUMBER OF TROOPS



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### Soviet Bloc and Cuban Arms Deliveries to Nicaragua



\* First three quarters only

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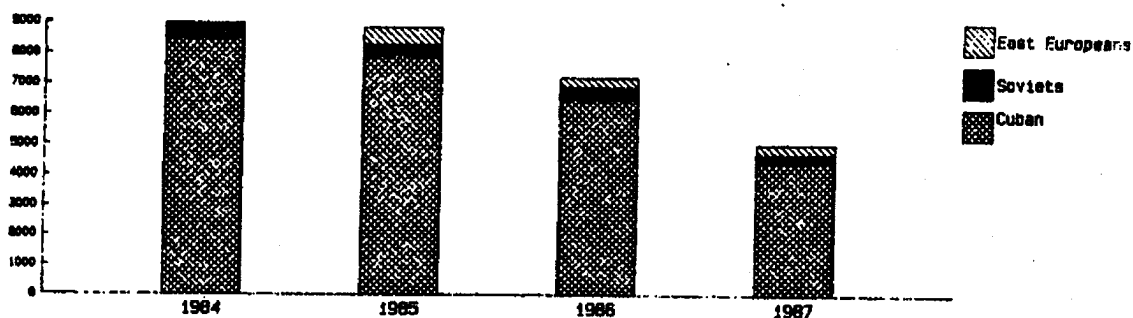
#### Recent Developments

The estimated value of Soviet Bloc military deliveries to Nicaragua reached \$460 million for the first nine months of 1987, compared to some \$390 million during the same period last year. Materiel sent directly from the USSR dropped sharply during the third quarter, but shipments from Cuba increased substantially. No major weapons systems have been identified in deliveries since late June.

the Nicaraguan cargo vessel Aracely arrived at Puerto Cabezas on 23 September and Rama on 29 September after loading at the Cuban port of Mariel earlier in the month.

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### Foreign Advisers in Nicaragua



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### CURRENT FOREIGN PRESENCE IN NICARAGUA

	<u>Military</u>	<u>Civilian</u>
Cubans	1,750*	2,250**
Soviets	75	200
East Europeans	100	225

\*Midpoint of 1,500-2,000

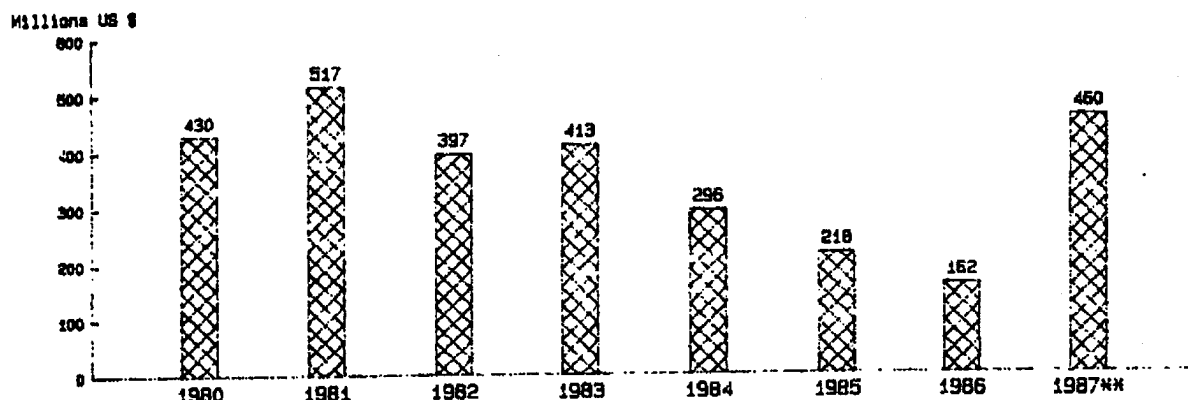
\*\*Midpoint of 2,000-2,500

### Recent Developments

Nothing to report.

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### Western Aid to Nicaragua\*



\* Includes assistance from multilateral governmental, and private sources.

\*\* First 9 months only.

This graph is classified ~~SECRET~~

### Recent Developments

[redacted] the Swedish aid bureaucracy is requesting a 30 percent increase--to \$30 million--in bilateral assistance to Nicaragua for 1988. [redacted]

The Peruvian press reported that Lima shipped 34,000 barrels of oil to Nicaragua--about two days' worth of consumption--in early September. To date, this is the only Western oil shipment in response to Nicaragua's plea in early summer for assistance from countries outside the Soviet Bloc. [redacted]

NICARAGUAN HUMAN RIGHTS CHRONOLOGY

In September, allegations of human rights abuses by both the insurgents and the Sandinistas increased moderately from August. The rebels released 80 Sandinista prisoners to Costa Rican authorities as a gesture of compliance with the Central American peace plan. The head of an independent human rights group and an opposition leader, arrested by regime officials during a demonstration in mid-August, were released one week before their 30-day sentence was to expire. [REDACTED]

INSURGENT HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

23 August

Rebel forces kidnaped 15 farmers in Jinotega Department, [REDACTED]

24 August

The Defense Ministry charges that insurgents kidnaped 70 peasants near Nueva Guinea, southern Zelaya Department. [REDACTED]

Late August

One civilian was killed and four wounded during a guerrilla attack on a cooperative in Boaco Department, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

9 September

An insurgent attack on a cooperative in Matagalpa Department left two civilians dead and at least ten houses burned, according to regime press. [REDACTED]

11 September

One civilian was killed, three were wounded, and three houses were burned during a guerrilla attack on a cooperative in Matagalpa Department, according to Sandinista press. [REDACTED]

12 September

The regime press says three civilians were wounded by an insurgent-laid mine in Chontales Department. [REDACTED]

12 September

Rebel forces kidnaped two civilians in Jinotega Department, according to Sandinista press. [REDACTED]



15 September

The proregime press says one civilian was killed and 11 wounded when a bus hit a guerrilla-laid mine in Chontales Department. [REDACTED]

16 September

An official from the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform was killed and two companions wounded when their vehicle was ambushed by rebel forces in Nueva Segovia Department, according to Sandinista press. [REDACTED]

16 September

The proregime press says insurgents kidnaped three civilians in Jinotega Department. [REDACTED]

18 September

The rebels released 80 Sandinista prisoners to Costa Rican authorities as a gesture of compliance with the Central American peace plan, according to international press. Only 20 of the prisoners chose to return to Nicaragua. [REDACTED]

18 September

One civilian was killed and two wounded during a guerrilla ambush of a tugboat in southern Zelaya Department, according to Sandinista press. [REDACTED]

19 September

The administrator of a state farm in Chontales Department was killed and a peasant worker wounded during a rebel attack, according to government press. [REDACTED]

19 September

Two civilians were killed and one wounded when insurgents fired mortars on a settlement in Jinotega Department, according to Sandinista press. [REDACTED]

21 September

The regime press charges that two insurgent ambushes in Esteli Department resulted in one civilian death and two injuries. [REDACTED]

22 September

Five civilians in Chontales Department were kidnaped by guerrillas, according to government press; one of these civilians eventually was killed. [REDACTED]

23 September

Three civilians were killed when a vehicle from the Nicaraguan Institute of Natural Resources and Environment hit a rebel-laid mine in northern Zelaya Department, according to regime press. [REDACTED]

23 September

The government press says one civilian was kidnaped when insurgents ambushed two Ministry of Construction trucks in Matagalpa Department. [REDACTED]

SANDINISTA HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS

23 August

A peasant in northern Zelaya Department was beaten and detained by regime troops, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

28 August

[REDACTED] regime troops brutally beat a peasant in southern Zelaya Department and ransacked his house.  
[REDACTED]

2-15 September

In Jinotega Department, Sandinista military forces were demanding food from peasants under the threat of forcible recruitment and destroying peasant gardens and fields, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

6 September

Sandinista troops assaulted and robbed a woman in southern Zelaya Department and beat and raped her two daughters, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The same group of soldiers, claiming to be rebel forces, also assaulted and robbed another civilian in the same area. [REDACTED]

8 September

The regime released from jail the head of the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission and an opposition leader one week before their 30-day sentence was to end, according to international press. The two men had been arrested on 15 August when trying to organize an opposition march in Managua. [REDACTED]

9 September

Sandinista military forces indiscriminately fired on a civilian village in Jinotega Department for one hour, [REDACTED]

11 September

[REDACTED] Sandinista troops regularly rob peasants in northern Zelaya Department, and have mined areas around a civilian village there. Also, many political prisoners in the area reportedly are mistreated and tortured by state security forces. [REDACTED]

12 September

Six Sandinista soldiers raped a woman in Boaco Department, [REDACTED]

14 September

Seven civilians were killed when the Sandinista Air Force indiscriminately fired on a village in southern Zelaya Department, [REDACTED]

Mid-September

[REDACTED] 25 civilians were killed when the Sandinista Air Force indiscriminately fired on four villages in Zelaya Department. [REDACTED]

16 September

[REDACTED] one civilian was killed when Sandinista troops indiscriminately fired on a village in Jinotega Department. [REDACTED]

16 September

Three civilians were killed when Sandinista military forces indiscriminately fired on a village in central Zelaya Department for two hours, [REDACTED]

17 September

Sandinista military forces beat and robbed peasants from five villages in northern Zelaya Department, [REDACTED]

18 September

One civilian was killed and four wounded when Sandinista troops indiscriminately fired on a village in Jinotega Department, [REDACTED]

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20 September

Eight women and 18 children from Jinotega Department were kidnaped by Sandinista military forces, [REDACTED]

23 September

Two infants were killed and three women were wounded when the Sandinista Air Force indiscriminately fired on a village in central Zelaya Department, [REDACTED]

26 September

At least three civilians were detained by Sandinista authorities during family day at the Las Manos border crossing, when Nicaraguan exiles in Honduras meet relatives just inside Nicaragua. One of the detained victims was released shortly after being beaten and interrogated by government officials, [REDACTED] Five women who tried to rescue one of the detainees reportedly were beaten and robbed by regime authorities. [REDACTED]